

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) While the position in this regard varies from country to country, this Ministry has not received any demand by popular film producers to shift the subject of cinema to the Department of Culture.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Payment as A.I.R. Lift Charges to Indian Air Force**

3578. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry owes certain amount to the Indian Air Force for Airlift charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of the dues; and

(d) the time by which this amount is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Defence (Air Headquarters) has preferred claims to the tune of Rs. 10,55,22,373 on account of airlift charges pertaining this Ministry. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 10,53,97,052 pertains to Doordarshan. An amount of Rs. 1,19,344 pertains to Films Division and Rs. 227 to DAVP. Bills to the tune of Rs. 5,750 which are said to have been sent, have not been received.

(c) Doordarshan have been requesting Ministry of Defence to reconsider the matter and to charge airlifting charges on concessional rates, as the amount billed was felt to be high. Person(s) who travelled were apparently neither engaged by Films Division nor DAVP. The matter has accordingly been taken up with Air Headquarters.

(d) The payment will be made as soon as the issue is mutually settled.

#### **Nutrition Standard of People**

3579. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural development programmes have made any significant impact on the nutrition standard of the people;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard in tribal, rural and urban slum areas; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) None of the Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment directly aims at improving the nutrition standard of the people. However, the results of latest repeat survey conducted by National Nutrition monitoring Bureau of Indian Council of Medical Research in 10 States of the Country indicated that the nutrition status of rural children improved significantly.

#### **Shankar Guruswamy Committee**

3580. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the reaction of the Government on Shankar Guruswamy Committee on power transmission; and

(b) the details regarding the present status on action taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Committee of Experts constituted by the Government of India under Shri D. Sankaraguruswamy has submitted its report in July, 1997. The implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts can only be taken after the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 is passed by Parliament. The Bill is now under consideration by the Standing Committee on Energy.

#### **Technological Problem in Steel Industry**

3581. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major technological problems faced by the Steel Industry;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. propose to offer research and development projects on a contract basis to outside contractors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The level of technology available in Indian Steel Industry is still below the international level. However, the situation is gradually improving with the newer companies adopting the latest technologies and modernisation of the SAIL plants.

(b) The R & D Centre of SAIL is primarily working for the Steel Plants and Units of SAIL including its subsidiaries. However, some R & D projects are also undertaken for outside parties on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

(c) During 1996-97 seven assignments have taken up for organisations outside SAIL. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Assignment Title	Organisation
1.	Testing of Coal Samples	Sesa Kembla, Goa.
2.	Pilot Scale testing of Foreign coal samples.	VSP, Visakhapatnam.
3.	Testing of coal Samples.	Friends coal, Dhanbad.
4.	Testing of Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	HPCL, Bombay.
5.	Testing of 4 Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	IDC Ltd. R & D Faridabad.
6.	Consultancy for Calibration of CSR-CRI Equipments.	Sesa Kembla, Goa
7.	Decrepitation test of SMS Grade Limestone samples.	RSMD Jodhpur.

Limited number of Assignments are pursued for outside parties, because the in-house requirement of R & D in SAIL itself is quite substantial. However, depending upon the requests from outside parties, such arrangements are taken up to the extent possible.

#### **Joint Venture Railway Services**

3582. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint venture Railway Services is being introduced in Goa Sector;

(b) if so, the details of passenger amenities and expenditure incurred;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the feasibility of introducing such services from Mangolpuri to New Delhi Railway Station:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain services with cost sharing arrangement between Goa Government and Konkan Railway Corporation are being proposed including on Karwar-Pernam section. Konkan Railway Corporation has also accepted the offer of M/s. Patil Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd. For ownership, marketing and management of Tourist Train for Mumbai-Goa-Madgaon Circuit for a period of 15 years.

(c) to (e) No joint Venture train services are proposed between Mangolpuri and New Delhi due to technical reasons.

#### **Subsidy on Liquid Fuel**

3583. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on liquid fuel imports required for proposed power plants;

(b) whether the withdrawal of subsidy will push up power rates effecting the common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The Prices would be based on international prices, and would not have any element of subsidy. A Planning Commission study had shown that at the locations studied, liquid fuel based power plants would be at the more expensive end of the available options. However, these plants can be commissioned within a much shorter time compared to power plants based on conventional fuels.

#### **Captive Thermal Power Stations**

3584. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country;

(b) whether these are based on the use of washeries rejects as fuel or on normal coal;

(c) if so, the estimated capital required for investment on these projects;

(d) the progress made so far in setting up the captive thermal power stations in the various mining areas; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking up the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country by M/s Coal India Limited are as given below :

Sl. No.	Site	Capacity (MW)	Awarded to
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajrappa	1x10	M/s DLF Power Ltd.
2.	Bhojudih	1x10	-do-
3.	Gidi	1x10	-do-
4.	Madhuband	2x10	-do-